

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6045

INFO USMISSION UNUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6615

USIA FOR ILA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROP, SHUM, CI, OTRA

SUBJ: LOWENSTEIN VISIT

REF: SANTIAGO 6582

1. IN ADDITION TO THE GROUP SESSIONS AND A LARGELY PROTOCOLARY MEETING AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN WHICH AMBASSADOR LOWENSTEIN PARTICIPATED DURING HIS BRIEF STAY IN SANTIAGO (REFTEL), HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETING WITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS CARDINAL SILVA AND RABBI KREIMAN AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FIGURES FREI AND JUAN DE DIOS CARMONA PERALTA. EMBASSY OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED HIM ON THE THREE PRIVATE MEETINGS WEDGED INTO HIS BUSY SCHEDULE (CARMONA WAS IN THE U.S. AT THE TIME).

2. NONE OF THE CHILEANS SAID ANYTHING DRAMATICALLY NEW. THE RABBI STRESSED THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ENJOYS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOC AND REFERRED TO THE STOULMAN CASE (SEE SANTIAGO 6567). THE
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CARDINAL ALSO TOOK PAINS TO NOTE THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH PINOCHET ARE GOOD, AND SAID HE BELIEVES THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE OVER. BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY AND, IN HIS VIEW, THE GOC WILL HAVE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNTING--THE SOONER THE BETTER. THE CARDINAL INDICATED THAT HE IS PRESSING FOR THE REMOVAL OF COLONEL CONTRERAS FROM DINA (AS WELL,

PRESUMABLY, OTHER CHANGES). SILVA WAS VERY CRITICAL REGARDING THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY. REFERRING TO INTERNATIONAL POLICY TOWARD CHILE, THE CARDINAL EMPHASIZED THAT UNRELENTING PRESSURE ON CHILE'S MILITARY LEADERS WOULD HAVE THE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE RESULT OF INCREASING THEIR SEIGE MENTALITY, BUT HE GAVE HIGH PRAISE TO THE US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY INITIATIVES.

3. FREI STRESSED THE POLITICAL COSTS OF THE GOC'S ECONOMIC POLICY, WHICH HE SAID WAS HELPING THE COMMUNISTS MORE THAN ALLENDE HAD DONE. POVERTY WAS SERVING TO FURTHER POLARIZE THE SOCIETY. FREI REITERATED THE PDC POSITION THAT A BROAD ALLIANCE WITH POPULAR UNITY PARTIES WOULD BE THE KISS OF DEATH FOR THE PDC AND PLAY RIGHT INTO GOC HANDS. FOR SIMILAR REASONS THE PDC DOES NOT WANT TO BE ENDORSED OR SINGLED OUT BY THE USG FOR ESPECIALLY SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT. FREI URGED THE USG TO PUSH FOR THE END OF EMERGENCY RULE; RESTORATION OF THE FREEDOMS OF SPEECH, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY; DISSOLUTION OR CONTROL OF DINA; AND INCREASED POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENTAL DECISIONS. GIVEN THESE CONDITIONS, THE PDC WOULD MAKE OUT FINE.
BOYATT

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